

Contact: Vicki Schiller-Long, Excellence in Leadership Awards Co-Chair
TELEPHONE: (406) 444-4934 e-mail: vschiller-long@mt.gov

May 16, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ICCW Celebrates 30 Years at the 9th Annual Excellence in Leadership Awards

(Helena) --- The Interagency Committee for Change by Women (ICCW) today announced its 30-year anniversary in conjunction with the 9th Annual Excellence in Leadership Awards ceremony.

“What you are doing in ICCW today is exactly what I envisioned 30 years ago,” said ICCW founding member Joan Duncan, whose firm conviction and strong voice gave rise to a movement that continues today. “I am so proud of what has been accomplished and what is in the planning stages that I still think of it as my personal little baby.”

ICCW was established by Executive Order of the Governor in 1976 to create positive change for all state employees by promoting the full participation of women in state government.

In 1999, to further promote and celebrate the full participation of women in the work force, ICCW created the ***Breaking the Glass Ceiling Awards*** to honor three individuals from across Montana for exemplary leadership and achievements and for outstanding efforts to assist women excel in the work place. This award evolved into the ***Excellence in Leadership Awards*** celebrated today.

Lt. Governor John Bohlinger continued the tradition by presenting awards to individuals who exhibit outstanding leadership qualities, who recognize the value of women in the workplace, and who actively encourage women to move forward and upward in state government, private and public sectors.

Award Recipients

- A Person in State Government: Annie M. Goodwin, Division of Banking and Financial Institutions Commission, Department of Administration
- A Person in the Private Sector: Sandy Shull, Owner, Birds and Beasleys Art Gift Gallery and Backyard Birding Supplies, Helena
- A Person in the Public Sector: George M. Dennison, President, The University of Montana, Missoula

Nominees in State Government:

- Pam Bucy, Department of Justice
- Sue Daly, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
- Katherine Dalton, Department of Justice
- Linda Davis, Department of Administration
- Janet Hess-Herbert, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
- Patti Keebler, Office of the Governor
- Vicky Koch, (Retired) Department of Transportation
- Kathleen McNeill, Department of Administration

Creating positive change for all state employees by promoting the full participation of women in state government.
www.mdt.mt.gov/iccw/

Nominees in the Private Sector:

- Sue Holmgren, Owner, Essentials Day Spa, Kalispell
- Lyle Knight, President/CEO, First Interstate BancSystem, Billings

Nominees in the Public Sector:

- Terry Kendrick, Policy Analyst and Project Director, The Policy Institute, Helena
- Vonda Limpy, Board Member and Former Director, Prayer Lodge, Busby
- June Sprout, Superintendent, Cascade Schools, Cascade
- Margaret "Peggy" Tonon, Director of Student Affairs and Clinical Director, School of Law, The University of Montana, Missoula.

The ceremony is sponsored by:

- Fast Enterprises
- Jackson Hewitt
- Bearing Point.

In-kind donations are provided by:

- The Governor's Office Executive Chef Jane Brophy (food)
- Safeway & Leslie's Hallmark (flowers);
- ELA judges
- Badge West Awards & Engraving (Billings) and Crown Trophy (Helena).

To learn more about ICCW visit <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/iccw/>